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The Signal



Friday, September 17, 2004

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

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News UPDATE

POW observance

Fort Gordon observes Prisoner of War/Missing in Action recognition day at 10 a.m. **today** at the POW/MIA monument at the intersection of Chamberlain Avenue and Kilbourne Street.

Prostate screenings

The Eisenhower Army Medical Center Urology Clinic will be offering free prostate screenings **today**.

To take part in the screening, you must be:

□ Male, ages 40-75.

□ Not had a prostate exam in the last nine months.

□ Be eligible for health care at EAMC.

To schedule an appointment for a free screening, call 787-2862 or 787-2429, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month program

The Hispanic Heritage Month command program is at 1:30 p.m. **Wednesday** in Alexander Hall.

The theme this year is "Hispanic Americans: Making a Difference in Our Communities and Our Nation." Guest speaker is Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, a retired Army lieutenant colonel.

For information, call Staff Sgt. Steven Townsend at 791-2014.

OSC flea market

The Officers' Spouses' Club flea market is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Oct. 2** at Barton Field. Vendor spaces are still available and cost \$25-\$45.

Space sales are available at the Post Exchange lobby from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. today, Saturday, Friday and Sept. 18, 24, 25, 29 and Oct. 1. Spaces may also be purchased at the Thrift Shop from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Sept. 21, 23, 28 and 30. For information call 791-2779.

Soldier show

The 2004 Soldier Show is 8 p.m. **Oct. 9** and 6 p.m. **Oct. 10** in Alexander Hall. Admission is free.

Signal Symposium scheduled

The U.S. Army Signal Center and the Augusta, Fort Gordon Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association host the Signal Regimental Symposium from **Nov. 29 to Dec. 3**.

The theme is "LandWarNet – Networking the Force in the Joint Fight."

For information contact Capt. Jonathan Stamberg at 791-7800 or Master Sgt. Derrick Taylor 791-2691.



Huddle up

Capt. Matthew McGraw, 442nd Signal Battalion, finishes lunch at the counter of the new Huddle House that opened Friday morning. The restaurant, located near the PXtra, is the first restaurant on Fort Gordon open 24 hours a day.

Photo by Pfc. Armando Monroig

Chamber event offers info for area newcomers

Denise Allen

Signal staff

Erin Hamblin was out for blood at the Gordon Club Sept. 9.

The blood donor recruiter with Kendrick Memorial Blood Center had a sign up sheet for potential blood donors at the fifth annual "Putting U In Aug_sta" newcomers event.

"We are seeing a lot of people who didn't know we were here," she said.

The center has the highest totals of any collection agency in the Army, and blood drawn at Fort Gordon goes to support troops, Hamblin said.

Kendrick Memorial Blood Center was one of about 66 vendor booths set up at the event, targeted at those who are new to the community.

"We are really reaching people who are new," said Pat Buchholz, strategic management officer, who greeted people at the door, encouraging them to sign up for door prizes.

"There have been some people from Fort Carson (Colo.) who have only been here a few days. That's what it's geared for," she said.

Sgt. Sandra Nana was one of those who recently transferred from Fort Carson. She said the event was very helpful.

"There's a lot of informa-

tion," said Nana, who was specifically looking for information on mortgages and events on post.

The vendor booths were a mix of on-post organizations and community businesses.

Fisher House, Army Community Services and Woodworth Community Library were among the post organizations.

Representatives from businesses such as AAA, Sign-A-Rama, Knology, Sun Trust, Georgia Bank and Trust and Cumberland Village were also on hand to talk about their products and services.

In addition, representatives from several colleges and universities were also at the event.

George Lightfoot with Augusta Technical College was

available to let people know about the course offerings at the school and to let active duty and their spouses and retirees and their spouses know about the residential waiver that provides eligibility for the Hope Grant.

Lightfoot said Augusta Tech has had a booth at the newcomers event for a couple of years and he has watched the event grow.

Buchholz said she was pleased with the turnout as a steady stream of interested people made their way through the booths during the day.

"Some people ... have only been here a few days. That's what it's geared for."

Pat Buchholz
Strategic management officer

Spouses may spend day in Army boots

Denise Allen

Signal staff

Adjusting to military life can be difficult for family members.

They may not understand the long hours and why their Soldier doesn't want to tell them every detail of their day.

"This goes into a better understanding of the Army mission, Fort Gordon's mission and the unit's mission," Lynn Harshman of Army Community Service said about a new program that gives adult family members a taste of what Army life is like from a Soldier's point of view.

"You're in the Army: Soldier For A Day" will be a quarterly program. The first program is scheduled for Thursday.

The day will begin with breakfast; then family members will be paired with a battle buddy from the 93rd Signal Brigade.

Then they will be taken to

the field to learn whatever members of the 93rd are learning that day. It could be compass reading, first aid or tent set-up.

Also involved is a briefing based on two Army Family Team Building modules – one is about the importance of the mission and family life and the other is about military family expectations.

The day will end with lunch and formation. Participants will receive a set of military ID tags and a T-shirt.

Harshman said that people have responded positively to the idea.

Military spouses who've been a part of the system for a long time saying they are excited about it, she said, with some saying they wished the program was available in their early years.

While space is limited, there are spots left.

Reservations may be made by calling ACS at 791-3880 or 791-3579.



Mike Rodgers, Signal Museum exhibit specialist, demonstrates the use of the Beardslee Telegraph Machine, the first electronic communications device fielded in the Army.

Signaleers see history come alive

Sgt. Sam Smith

Signal staff

Soldiers of the 551st Signal Battalion got a glimpse of the origin of their corps Sept. 9 by the battalion headquarters.

Advanced individual training Soldiers, noncommissioned, warrant and commissioned officers alike got a better understanding of how the Signal Corps got its start during the American Civil War.

"It gives us insight into what it was like in another era," said Sgt. 1st Class Shelby Burroughs, the operations NCOIC for Company A and Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"I didn't have any idea communication was so primitive in that time period."

Lt. Col. Mike Shillinger, the battalion commander, took off his battle dress uniform and silver oak leaf to don the double-chevron and period dress of a corporal in the Signal Corps of the Union Army.

Shillinger demonstrated the use of the Signal Corps' original method of communication, the wig-wag flags, which are still the symbol of the Corps. Also on display was a replica of the Beardslee, a field version of the telegraph machine and the first electronic communication device used by the Army in 1863 during the Civil War.

Along with demonstrations of the use of the original Sig-

nal equipment, Mike Rodgers, the Signal Museum's exhibit specialist, and Cliff Manasco of the Army Research Laboratory, gave briefings on the history of the Signal Corps as well as the challenges the first signaleers faced, from equipment failure to a high casualty rate.

"It's important they know their history 'cause it's like the old saying goes 'if you don't learn from the past you're doomed to make the same mistakes,'" Rodgers said.

Living history classes are part of the Signal Museum's outreach program, which aims to add life to history lessons.

Case managers help injured Soldiers here

Denise Allen
Signal staff

With both legs in casts, a Soldier injured in the Middle East is ready to be released from Eisenhower Army Medical Center; however, he has no family to pick him up at the airport.

Making sure that Soldiers in this type of situation are cared for even after their release is part of the duties of a team of hospital professionals.

Before the fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq took place, Fort

Gordon was not designated as a medical hold facility for these patients.

"We were not identified to have case managers," said Jan Whaley, EAMC's chief of utilization and case management.

However in October, CNN reported a backlog of patients at Fort Stewart, Ga., and soon after patients from there came to Fort Gordon.

"In about a week, we stood up case management nurses," she said.

Now, Soldiers stationed at Fort Stewart or Puerto Rico who come through Fort Gordon go through a process to help them even before they arrive at the gates.

A nurse greets them on their flight. Most of the Soldiers

have been in Landstuhl, Germany.

The nurse finds out what immediate treatments may be required, sets up all doctors' appointments and gets a room assignment for the Soldier. The manager makes sure that physical as well as mental health issues are addressed.

"The first mission is their health," she said.

Within 72 hours, there should be a full assessment of the Soldier's course of treatment and needs.

They make sure that the Soldiers' rehabilitation needs are taken care of, even if they receive treatment elsewhere.

Case managers also aid in getting family members to the post and coordinate with AAFES to get clothing and other personal items for the Soldier.

"It's much more refined now," said Whaley. "There have been a lot of humps and bumps along the way. Few have not been satisfied. They all love their case managers."

Some of the case managers are activated Army reservists who voted to extend their activation duty time to continue serving in the program, she said.

Cadets pay tribute to 9/11 dead

Spc. Nicole Robus
Signal military editor

Many organizations and people took time out of their busy schedules to memorialize Sept. 11, 2001, and the Augusta Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets wasn't any different.

The cadets, leaders and parents gathered at Riverview Park in North Augusta, S.C., to pay tribute to those who died in the terrorism attacks.

U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Bob Riffe, Augusta Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, commander, led a prayer.

"God, please watch over the family members of those who passed away and gave their lives on Sept. 11 and in the War on Terrorism since then. Also please be with those who are currently serving in the War on Terrorism," said Riffe.

The day wasn't just about the past it was about the present. The cadets played volleyball, softball and other sports.

The cadets played the adults in a game of softball where the adults came out smashing the cadets 20-0.

After the softball game they all came together for a barbeque.

Saturday was a day of remembrance and fun for the sea cadet program and Sunday all the cadets that went to training during the summer were recognized.

There is a program called Navy League Cadet Corps which is for youth who are 11 but not yet 14. The NLCC are able to attend a one-week summer recruit training.

League Cadet Hillary Rangos attended her training at NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla., in July. Rangos was named the



Courtesy photo

Sea Cadets learn how to fire an M16A2 at Fort Perry, Ohio, as part of their two-week recruit training.

honor cadet of her class.

"I was very surprised when I found out that I made honor cadet. I was scared at first but then I was really happy," said Rangos.

Rangos' instructors told her she was selected because she had the best grades, when marching she always kept in line, that she was a natural leader, and she helped everyone in the barracks keep in line.

"One day while at training we had a race and whoever got to physical training first got chow first. I was the guidon bearer and if I stopped we all had stop but I didn't stop and we won the race," said Rangos, who is 12 years old.

All newly enrolled U.S. Naval Sea Cadets must first attend a two-week summer recruit training at select Navy and Coast Guard recruit training commands and locations throughout the country.

The boot camp curriculum includes naval history, customs, traditions, seamanship and navigation.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Seamen Apprentice Robert Webb attended recruit training during July at the Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, Fla. Webb was selected as the honor cadet of his two-week recruit training.

"The training I received gave me a good taste of the military and a lot of respect for those who serve. I also came out of recruit training with new friends," said Webb, a 17-year-old who has spent seven months with the Sea Cadets.

"I believe I was chosen as the honor cadet because I was much older than the other cadets and they looked up to me.

"I was given highest position a recruit can receive, RPOC, which is a leadership position. The other recruits could follow me by example," added Webb. "As the RPOC, I would be the one who made sure the rest of the recruits were squared away with their areas and such."

"It was my goal to be-

come an RPOC and to become the honor cadet and I accomplished those goals," said Webb. "I am really glad I did it. It has made a big difference in my life. I recommend it for anyone interested in the military," added Webb.

Webb plans to go to the U.S. Naval Academy and become an officer with the U.S. Navy SEALs. With the cadet program, Webb can attend a two-week advanced course on the U.S. Navy SEALs program this winter.

"After a cadet finishes boot camp they are able to take advantage of Naval Sea Cadet opportunities. These opportunities include an advanced two-week training program aboard Navy and Coast Guard vessels," said Riffe.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Petty Officer 3rd Class Jacob Riffe plans to go to the U.S. Navy SEALs program this winter.

Cadet Riffe attended his first advanced training at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va., attending the Master of

Arms Academy for 15 days.

"I learned everything about the Navy MAA and even more about the Sea Cadets. I got to qualify on the baton and on the 9mm pistol," said Riffe, who is 15 years old.

"It was tough mentally and physically; there was a lot of beach PT. All in all it was tough training but it was worth it," said Cadet Riffe.

"I am planning on joining the Navy. I want to do something really hard like the SEALs," said Cadet Riffe.

There are many different areas a cadet can do their individual advanced training in.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Petty Officer 2nd Class Benjamin Hastings attended FAA Ground School at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

"We toured a lot of the base. We went to a communications center, to a flight tower and also (saw) a static display of a C-130 (Hercules)," said Hastings.

It was two weeks of intense classes about everything you need to know about flying in the military, said Hastings.

Youth who wish to enter must be motivated with a military mind set. The Sea Cadets isn't for everyone. Anyone who joins is expected to live up to military customs and courtesies, said Riffe. There is no military service requirement of the cadets. It is a volunteer program.

For more information about the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet program or are interested in becoming a cadet in the Augusta area, contact U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Bob Riffe at 798-6444 or CadetCentral@peoplepc.com.



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Going behind scenes at Signal museum

Sgt. Sam Smith

Staff writer

When you enter the Signal Museum at Conrad Hall you see the Beardslee Telegraph Machine, the old uniforms, and the period pictures, but what you don't see is the storage and restoration facilities that support these exhibits.

The museum actually has three separate storage and restoration shops, which maintain and interpret the pieces the museum acquires.

"The collection we have is what makes us unique. You can train Soldiers on what's different and the same (between today and yesterday's

Signaleers,)" said Bob Anzuoni, the museum director. "It's pretty much the same except more hi-tech equipment (now.)"

One facility is in the basement of Conrad Hall. It houses items that are rotated from display to storage, since a lot of items, especially textiles like uniforms and flags, can't be left on display all the time without being damaged by the environment.

Anzuoni said he heard the building was an old bomb shelter for the post command group in the mid-'60s. Now, it's shelves and climate controlled lockers full of Fort Gordon and Signal Corps history.



Dolores Oplinger, museum collections manager, vacuums a voltmeter bag in the basement of Conrad Hall.

Many of the items, like drums from the Civil War or the telephone used by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the Manila Conference, are only taken out for special exhibits and spend most of their time in the basement.

The second facility houses a lot of foreign communications equipment acquired from allies and enemies in various American campaigns, from the World to the Gulf Wars.

The third facility is half garage and half workshop for the old vehicles displayed at special outdoor events like Oktoberfest and Cinco de Mayo.

Even though it's part of every advanced individual training Soldier's education to visit his or her post museum, Anzuoni also encourages the Army's leaders to visit as well.

"It's good for (noncommissioned officers) to come here, because it's part of an NCO's mission to train Soldiers," Anzuoni said. "It's good for the officers to come because part of their mission is to preserve history."

The museum is located in Conrad Hall next to Signal Towers, and is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, closed Sundays, Mondays and federal holidays.



Bob Anzuoni, Signal museum director, demonstrates an M-227 Signal Lamp in the basement of Conrad Hall. The M-227 was used by Signaleers in World War II on the beaches of Normandy.

Photo by Sgt. Sam Smith

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Cobra challenge

2nd Lt. Myesha DuBose
73rd Ordnance Battalion

A loud and thunderous "Can Do Cobras" resonated from 88 fired up Soldiers ready to face off Aug. 28 at the obstacle course.

As the 73rd Ordnance Battalion Cobras prepared for their quarterly competition, the Charlie Cougars arrived ready to continue their winning streak over the Bravo Bombers for yet another quarter. The stakes were higher this quarter than in the past, and the Bombers felt the pressure. The winning company would receive the battalion's Obstacle Course streamer.

Before competition began, each Soldier had an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a Warrior and a member of a team. The Soldiers were challenged not only to push themselves, but also to help their teammates complete the course.

The first team of Soldiers set the bar high for all to fol-

low. Tired, sweaty and exhausted, the Soldiers from each team pushed across the finish line together.

The competition was fierce on both sides, and the Cougars performed to their usual high standards. However, the Bombers were unwilling to accept another defeat.

Demonstrating their relentless tenacity and desire to win, the Bombers had the fastest average team time and proudly took the streamer to display on the Company B guidon.

After the team competition, Soldiers ran through the course individually in a race against the clock.

Pfc. Tate Massey of Company B recorded the fastest time. A native of Corpus Christi, Texas, Massey joined the Army in February 2004. He attended Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga., and is currently a student in the 35R, Avionic System Repairer, course.

(DuBose is the executive officer for Company B.)



Courtesy photos

A Soldier helps his teammate through the tunnel obstacle.



Soldiers from Company C race across the finish line in the 73rd Ordnance Battalion Cobra Challenge obstacle course.

Life insurance holds rare open enrollment season

The open season for enrolling in the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance doesn't last long - it ends Sept. 30.

"I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this rare opportunity to review your life insurance requirements to ensure you are spending your hard-earned dollars in the best possible way to protect your family," said Kay Coles James, the director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Employees can go to www.fegli2004.opm.gov to get more information about the FEGLI open season. Additionally, all eligible employees should have received a FEGLI 2004 enrollment

packet. If you did not, visit your local human resources office for a copy, or read the packet on the website.

Even if you don't have basic coverage, have waived coverage in the past, or you were turned down for coverage in the past, you can still participate in the open season. No physical is needed and no medical questions are asked.

The new coverage you may elect has a delayed effective date until September 2005. The website contains details.

Army employees who wish to make an open season election must do so by contacting the Army Benefits Center-Civilian. Although the 2004 open season election form

was included in the information package, Army employees should not use this form.

To contact the ABC-C, go to <https://www.abc.army.mil> or call 1-877-276-9287 toll-free.

Both the ABC-C's web and phone systems provide personalized information concerning benefits, including the options carried and the amount of life insurance coverage. When making an election, remember to include the options that you already carry if you wish to continue them.

For information, call the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at 791-3044.

(From a FEGLI information release.)



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Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

NCOs key to winning war, peace

Roger Putnam

Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq – History has taught us many lessons on what to do after a war is won.

Germany and Japan are just two examples of defeated countries that rose from the ashes of defeat to become leaders in the international community with the direct assistance of the United States. In no small respect, the U.S. military's noncommissioned officers and their troops became the ambassadors of goodwill in these countries, and played a major role in winning the hearts and minds of the people.

Earning the trust of the people is essential if any reconstructive effort or peacekeeping mission is going to be successful.

Today's problems in Afghanistan and Iraq are similar.

The NCOs and their troops are the ones seen everyday on the

streets of the cities and towns.

It is their behavior that shapes the views of the local population and reflects what America is all about.

One of the hardest tasks for the NCO is to not blame all the people for the acts of a few.

We have trained our Soldiers to be war fighters, and justifiably so, but America's Soldiers are still filled with compassion for children and the downtrodden.

It is difficult for the NCOs to see their Soldiers attacked by insurgents and not become cynical toward the populace. But, thank God, our NCOs have proved they have the values and ability to put those feelings aside and perform the acts of kindness we see them doing the world over, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cynicism only undermines our ability to build a rapport with the population.

The NCO is instrumental in ensuring the populace understands

America's values and that it is a truly compassionate country. In Vietnam, our Soldiers built orphanages and schools, treated the sick, and spent untold hours assisting the Vietnamese, even while being attacked daily by insurgents.

U.S. Soldiers have performed similar deeds in every conflict our country has been involved in, and the NCO has always been at the forefront of these activities. Without the noncommissioned officer, many of these endeavors would not have succeeded, or even existed.

The NCO has to be the positive influence in both peace and war. NCOs make things happen. The NCO must always remember that planning is done at a higher level, but implementation of orders is an NCO responsibility.

The NCO is responsible for teaching and training his or her subordinates, not only in war fighting techniques, but also how to

approach the populace, how to understand and appreciate their culture, and how to treat them as they would want to be treated.

Trying to understand the rules they live by is as foreign to our culture as ours is to theirs.

A smile to civilians from one of our troops is a language that anyone can understand, and lays a foundation that reconstruction can build on.

NCOs and their troops are crucial to showing the population that America liberates, not conquers; that we truly want to help their people gain a better life. It is imperative that NCOs realize that they are the key to winning not only wars, but also the peace.

(Putnam is a retired command sergeant major who participated in the occupation of Japan, the Korean War, two tours in Vietnam, and who also served as the VII Corps CSM in the early 1980s.)

Feedback

Pfc. Armando Monroig

What qualities make a good NCO?



Makes sure that he helps to make that officer succeed with his experience and knowledge.

Capt. Dan Walker
Company C,
442nd Signal Battalion



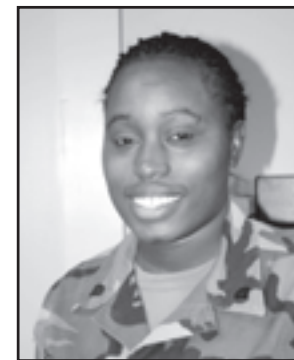
Being there for Soldiers no matter what – through thick and thin and always supporting Soldiers 100 percent no matter what the situation is.

Spc. Hamilton Thomas
HHC U.S. Army Garrison



The ability to communicate well. Also, leading from the front. Being able to be fair with all of your Soldiers across the board.

Pvt. Jimmy Renteria
Company C,
551st Signal Battalion



If he takes care of Soldiers – always trying to help them do their best. Always checking up on them, making sure they are on track.

Spc. Taterrian Lester
HHC U.S. Army Garrison

Why I Serve: Band musician ready for deployment

Eric Hurwitz

Special to American Forces Press Service

DEVENS, Mass. – “The thing is, I am a Soldier first, and that’s all there is to it.”

That’s how Spc. Frank “Skip” Spoerke, a musician by trade who found real harmony in his life with the Army Reserve, looks at his upcoming deployment to the Middle East.

A trumpet and flugelhorn player with the 94th Army Band, Spoerke, 27, joined the Army seven years ago. Having played his last concert with the 94th Army Band on July 20, Spoerke has put aside his musical instruments as he awaits his mobilization orders to support the global war on terror as a truck driver.

Spoerke said he will dearly miss life as he knows it, but that he looks forward to serving his country. “It’s first and foremost about getting back home our guys that have been there too long,” he said.

That means leaving his job as a private music instructor and his rock band VMF, which has been garnering some airplay on Cape Cod radio stations.

“Hey, it’s tough,” said Spoerke, a Minot, N.D., native, who lives south of Boston. “I just resigned as a music teacher. The band is going well. My parents are scared to death, but they understand.”

This isn’t Spoerke’s first deployment, as he went to Bosnia in 2000 in support of Task Force Eagle. His life changed significantly during that deployment.

“It was the camaraderie,” said Spoerke. “It was everything I thought it would be. Before then, I wasn’t necessarily impressed with the Army. In Bosnia, the friendships were amazing in a time that was very stressful. We came together. I had trust in every person, and they had trust in me. We knew we weren’t going



Photo by Eric Hurwitz

Army Spc. Frank “Skip” Spoerke of the 94th Army Band is trading his trumpet for a truck as he prepares to deploy to the Middle East.

to throw each other to the wolves.”

The band traveled throughout Bosnia playing for civilian officials, the British military and at refugee camps.

“That might have been another turning point,” said Spoerke, of playing at refugee camps. “We played every kind of music –

Dixieland, jazz, rock. Every performance was different. It was heartfelt knowing that we could play for them, and have them experience music they might have never heard before.”

Still, times were stressful in Bosnia. “People were yelling at us, throwing things at us, at times trying to run us down with cars. But you know what? I don’t even think about it. Playing music and the camaraderie of the Soldiers stands out much more.”

After returning, Spoerke went into the Individual Ready Reserve. Going through a divorce, he said, he needed time to “figure things out.”

He moved to Las Vegas and played music professionally, but it didn’t take long for him to recognize the lifestyle wasn’t for him. Spoerke latched on with the 94th Army Band, which he calls “amazing.”

“They took me under their wing, and within the first drill I knew everybody. We became friends so quickly. I love playing and being with this group.”

At his last 94th Army Band concert, the acapella contingent of the band dedicated a song, “It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday” to Spoerke and others leaving the unit.

The beautiful arrangement, sung in a classic Ben E. King style, brought a chill to the hot July night, leaving some of the audience in tears and others seemingly hypnotized by the emotive tone. Spoerke stood there, at one time, with his eyes closed and his mind seemingly spinning.

“Iraq will make a career decision for me,” said Spoerke later, on whether he will make a career out of the Army. “Going overseas has been on my mind. I think about it all the time, but I’m ready.”

(Hurwitz is assigned to the 94th Regional Readiness Command’s public affairs office.)

Private Murphy

‘OPORD’

By Mark Baker



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Warrants get exposure to new equipment

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Salaun
WOBC Class

Warrant officers attending the Warrant Officer Basic Course get very little instruction time on the new equipment called the Joint Network Node.

To counter that and add to the Soldiers' training, WOBC 09-04 made a trip to Fort Stewart, Ga., Sept. 10 to participate in the Joint Network Node fielding there.

The gear is a bold step to modern communications on the battlefield.



Students from WOBC 09-04 get initial setup instructions on a Kurtz Under trailer. The KU trailer connects Joint Network Nodes on the battlefield.

While the communication system that the Army currently uses, Mobile Subscriber Equipment, has been good to the Army, it is seeing the end of its life cycle. The Joint Network Node fielding introduces many of the commercial off the shelf concepts available to civilian counterparts.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Pete Gustin, chief of the Warrant Officer Division, wanted his instructors to get the newest crop of warrant officers the resources necessary to be successful as new WO1s.

This current class of Signal Systems Support Technicians is unique. Five out of the seven warrant officers will be assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division upon graduation from the course. The Warrant Officer Division needed to get these Soldiers some expo-

sure to the new equipment.

The trip was beneficial in the fact that the students get out of the classroom and actually see the equipment and talk to the manufacturer and users.

The students received valuable information from the contractors, General Dynamics and the Soldiers already assigned to the 3rd

ID. The students learned firsthand the benefit of creating good, professional relationships with other warrants, Soldiers and contractors.



Photos by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Salaun

A General Dynamics instructor gives instruction on the Voice Over Internet Protocol system to warrant officers from WOBC 09-04. The warrants traveled to Fort Stewart to participate in the Joint Network Node fielding there.

TRICARE payments made easier

Jennifer Chipman
DDEAMC Public Affairs Officer

TRICARE at Eisenhower Army Medical Center has made it even easier to pay for your health insurance.

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DD Form 2876, Payment of TRICARE Prime Enrollee Fees. Fill out and sign the form, the TSC will date stamp it, and forward it to Atlanta.

If you are computer savvy, go to www.humana-military.com on the internet, click on "TRICARE South," click on "Beneficiary Resources," scroll down to "Other TRICARE Forms" and click on "Allotment Authorization Letter." Be sure to read and follow the directions. Once you have printed out two copies and signed them, be sure to file one for your records and mail the other one to the address at the bottom of the form.

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Employee retires after 43 years of service

Pfc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

Juanita Wheeler, lead management support clerk at the post commissary, has seen her fair share of change on Fort Gordon since she began working here – in 1961.

“Let me tell you – I have seen a lot of changes in Fort Gordon,” said Wheeler. “I can remember a time when we used to do inventory – it took all day and half the night. Now you can do it in a matter of hours.” Wheeler retires Sept. 25 after 43 years of civil service.

She started as a laundry marker then was promoted in 1974 to work in the supply area at Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

She received another promotion in 1978 and transferred to clothing sales and worked in tailoring as a fabric worker.

In a year, the 64-year-old, Thomson, Ga., native, was promoted to clothes fitter and assisted basic training Soldiers with their uniforms, when Fort Gordon was a basic training post.

In 1980, the contract for that task was given to Pan Am. Choosing to stay in civil service, Wheeler took a position at the commissary as a supply clerk.

In no time she was promoted to accounting technician and later to accounting technician supervisor, eventually being promoted to the position she now holds.

Wheeler is in charge of the administrative office, with responsibilities that include processing paperwork from every department in the commissary, workings with vendors, and

helping Soldiers as they out-process.

In addition to changes in the workplace, Wheeler said she has seen so many people come and go through the years – retiring, relocating.

And now it is time for her to retire.

In her retirement, Wheeler plans on staying just as busy as when she was working. She hopes to spend more time traveling and with her family – two things she loves the most.

In addition, she will devote some time to other interests such as gardening, sewing, crocheting and staying involved with the congregation she has been a part of for so many years, First Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church of Winfield, Ga.

Wheeler also hopes to volunteer at local hospitals and nursing homes.

Wheeler said she chose to stay working so many years because she enjoys working and for the government.

“I like the work I was doing. I really enjoy working. I like helping people,” she said, adding, “Your job is what you make of it.”

Wheeler said she would do anything she could to help out customers and make their shopping experience at the commissary pleasurable.

Wheeler said she would miss the people the most once she retires.

“The people at the commissary are like an extended family,” she said, adding that this includes the customers. “We all get along so well. I just love all the people on Fort Gordon.”

Wheeler’s years of knowledge will be hard to replace.

“She brings to the job an awful lot of experience,” said Joseph Governski, commissary director. “Through the years the community has gotten to know Mrs. Wheeler.”

He added she is very customer oriented and “has been a very good spokesperson for the commissary.”

Governski said she is truly irreplaceable, especially “her historical knowledge and contacts.”

He said Wheeler is a “positively charged individual who has always had the can-do spirit.”

Governski added that Wheeler is “admired by many of her coworkers” who seek advice from her and that the stability she brings to the store will be missed.

One of those coworkers is Gina Yates, a support clerk, who has worked with Wheeler for a year. She said Wheeler has been very helpful and received a lot of advice from her.

“She is very broad-minded as a person,” said Yates, adding that Wheeler will definitely be missed.

Yates added that Wheeler always gives 100 percent, gets to the bottom of things, gets problems solved and gives great training.

“She pushes you, motivates you to get things done,” Yates said.

Chuck Woody, key account manager with Coca-Cola in Augusta who has worked with

Wheeler for 16 years, said Wheeler will be missed.

“She’s very good at what she does,” Woody said. “She stays on top of things and if I have any questions she is always willing to help.”

He added that she is very efficient and has been very helpful over the years.

“She’s a super lady. She’s very considerate of others – always thinks of others. We’re going to miss her. I hate to see her go.”

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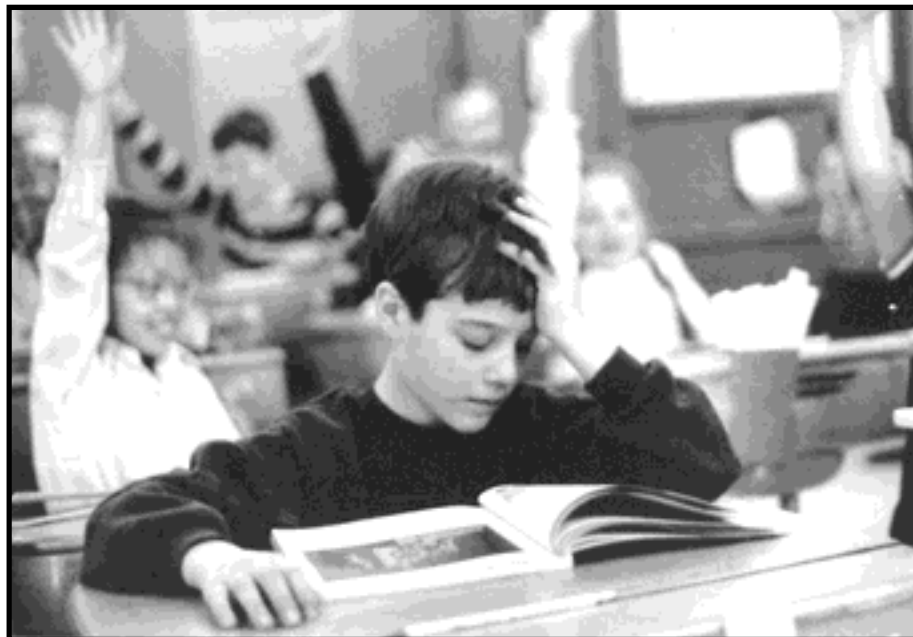
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Photo by Pfc. Armando Monroig
Juanita Wheeler, a Fort Gordon civilian employee for the past 43 years, retires Sept. 25 from the commissary.

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Friday: Evangelistic Night 7:30 p.m.

Van Transportation is Available
HALE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

352 Hale Street
Augusta, GA 30901
722-1051

Pastor James C. Kendrick, Sr.
Military Family Oriented
Sunday School 09:30
Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Family Bible Study
6:30 p.m.
Teen, Youth & Children's
Ministries

Transportation Available
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"Jesus Christ: Come and See ...
Go and Tell!"
115 East Milledgeville Road
Harlem, GA 30814

(½ block west of the light in downtown Harlem)
Call 706-556-6885 for information
9 a.m. Informal, contemporary style worship
10 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

11 a.m. Warm and inviting worship
4 p.m. Children's activities
4 p.m. Middle School activities
5 p.m. Senior high activities

6 p.m. Camp meeting "style" worship
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Mid-week program for children,
ages 3 through 5th grade

harlemumcpastor@msn.com
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH

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724-8028

Military Oriented
Reverend Dr. Woodrow Miller, Jr. Pastor
United States Army Retired

Deacon Tyron McCoy, Chairman
Deacon's Board
United States Army Retired

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship Services
11:30 a.m.

Bible Study & Prayer Services
7:00 p.m.
A "Bible Based, Christ Cen-
tered,

Holy Spirit Led" Church
HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH

3045 Deans Bdg. Road,
Augusta, Ga. 30906
706-793-3104

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bandstand 6:00 p.m.

(Activities for all ages)
Evening Worship Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Fellowship
Family Supper 5:30 p.m.

Children's Activities
6:15 - 7:30 p.m.
Adult & Youth Activities
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir - 7:30 p.m.
IGLESIA "PALABRAY UNICORN"

"UNA IGLESIA Diferente Para
Un Mundo Diferente"

Celebración (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
"Ven y Restaura TU Vida"
926 Atomic Road (Hwy. 125)
North Augusta, SC 29841

Phone: (706) 951-3053
or (803) 827-1652
IGLESIA DE DIOS FLEMING

MINISTERIO HISPANO
Evangelio de Jesucristo"
Servicio de Adoracion
Domingos - 2:00 p.m.

Estudio Biblico para Todos
Miercoles - 7:00 p.m.
Noche de Cine o
Servicio Evangelistico

Viernes - 7:30 p.m.
"Cambiano Vidas con el
3358 Peach Orchard Road
Augusta

Telefonos (706) 560-6457
798-1413
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4218 Windsor Spring Road
790-1040

½ Mile From Tobacco Road
Close to Gate 5
Rev. Timothy Green Jr., Pastor
Sunday Worship 8 & 11 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Worship
12:15 p.m.

Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
Ministries for All Ages
LIVING FAITH CHURCH

"A Church That Walks By Faith,
Not by Sight"
Pastor's Charles H. & Terry Stotler

SERVICE SCHEDULE
Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Prayer - 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Nursery Care provided during
morning service

Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 PM
YOUTH Ministry meet
during evening service

Wednesday Evening Study - 7:00 PM
Come Join Us In Fellowship:
3969 Mike Padgett Hwy.
Augusta, GA 30906

Phone: 790-1517
Web: lifcoaugusta.org
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A Growing People"

Worship Services,
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Sunday Church School
9:30 a.m.

Nursery Open 8:30-Noon
Call 724-8792 For Directions
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4400 Wheeler Rd.,
Martinez, Ga.
(Just 5 Minutes outside
Gate 1 on Dyess Pkwy.)

D. Alan Smith, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45-Morning
Worship 8:45 & 11:00
Children's Church

11 a.m. Service Only
Nursery Provided For
All Services

Sunday Evening Contemporary
Worship Service 6:15 p.m.
Wed.-Fellowship Supper 5:45 p.m.
Bible Studies 6:30 p.m.

More Info. 706-863-0510
www.gbpm-umc.org/marvin
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1132½ Roselle Street, Augusta, Ga.
30901
706-774-0030

Elder Daniel F. Gant, Pastor
Res. 706-651-8596
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Band/Y.P.W.W. 6 p.m.
Thursday Pastoral Teaching
7:00 p.m.

Saturday Prayer 11:00 a.m.
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Horarios;
Martes y Jueves, 7:30 p.m.

Domingos 10:30 a.m.
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(706)-564-2075

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Servicio de Adoracion
Domingos-2:00 p.m.
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Miercoles-7:00 p.m.

Servicio Evangelistico
Viernes-7:30 p.m.
3358 Peach Orchard Road, Augusta
Telefonos (706) 560-6457 o
783-1413

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(Hillcrest Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall)
Augusta, Georgia 30906
(706) 481-0752

www.newcreationchristianchurch.org
Kenneth T. Clay, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
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Sunday a.m. Pickup 9:15
Sunday Church 10-11:30
Sunday Evening Service 6:30

Wednesday Service 7-8:30
Sunday AM Pick up at 9:45
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3880 Wrightsboro Road
Augusta, GA 30909
706-863-2487

Sunday
9:45 AM - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Morning Worship
6:30 PM - Evening Worship

Wednesday Night
6:30 PM - Bible Study & Prayer
7:15 PM Choir Practice
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Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Operation Kid Comfort connects children to deployed parents

Sgt. Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — To keep her young son feeling close to his dad during an upcoming deployment, Marci Kay Cornwell is conquering a fear she didn't know she had until recently.

Cornwell is among several military wives and volunteers involved in Operation Kid Comfort, a nearly year-old project that provides children with quilts stitched with fabric photos of their absent parent.

She heard about the project and showed up at the Armed Services YMCA on Fort Bragg, where a quilting workshop draws a dozen or more women each Wednesday. Cornwell wanted to put in a request to have a quilt made for her 5-year-old son, Logan.

Instead, project coordinator Ann Flaherty put her to work making a quilt herself. A self-described tomboy, Cornwell took one look at the sewing machine and froze. The ironing board and cutting table doubled the fear.

"It was terrifying," Cornwell recalled, swiping an iron over the partially-completed blanket. "I didn't know how to sew. This is my first time using an iron."

QUILTS TELL PICTURE STORIES

She gets encouragement on her progress from Flaherty and another spouse, Tiffany Vedvick, who brought in the quilt she made for her nearly 2-year-old daughter, Lorelai, to show to others with works-in-progress. Vedvick's husband is on his second tour in Afghanistan. She was pregnant with their daughter when he was severely injured by a triple grenade attack during his first tour; he arrived home just in time for the birth of Lorelai.

The blanket is a picture story of a father's love for his little girl — nine photo blocks show him cradling her as an infant, snuggling and laughing together. When Lorelai saw it for the first time, she started kissing each photo, saying "Daddy" to each, Vedvick said.

"She wouldn't let go of it," she recalled. "She still won't. I have to sneak it away when I want to show it to anyone else."

CHILD'S PAIN PROMPTS PROJECT



Photo by Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Marci Kay Cornwell shows her progress on a quilt she is making for her son, which features pictures of her husband and son together, to Tiffany Vedvick, who recently finished a similar quilt for her daughter. Operation Kid Comfort teaches spouses to make the special blankets in a quilting workshop held each Wednesday at the Fort Bragg, N.C., branch of the Armed Services YMCA.

Flaherty wasn't planning to launch the Operation Kid Comfort effort when she made a picture quilt for her 18-month-old grandson, Christian Roman, early last year. She was just looking for a way to help Christian deal with his father, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Roman, being away. Not long after CWO Roman, an Apache helicopter pilot, deployed to Iraq, the little boy started carrying pictures of his daddy around the house, squirreling them away in his bedroom.

A quilt artist, Flaherty took Christian's favorite pictures and turned them into a Daddy Quilt. The blanket worked magic, she said. Christian started calming down, slept better and stopped having so many temper tantrums. Soon after, she made a quilt for one of Christian's friends, whose parents were both deployed. Another blanket followed, then another, then another.

"It's an incredible coping tool,"

Flaherty said. "It's a tangible, hug-gable thing that keeps mommy and daddy close."

Realizing the need for such quilts was bigger than what she could handle alone, Flaherty approached the Fort Bragg/Pope Air Force Base Armed Services YMCA and a partnership developed. Since then, the project has drawn support from a variety of businesses and civic groups who have donated thousands of dollars worth of materials and equipment. The project won best new program this year from the Raytheon Program Achievement Award, which came with a \$10,000 grant.

QUILTS COMFORT MOMS, DADS

About 150 quilts have been matched with children since October. Flaherty and others are learning that the quilts don't just help the kids. Her son-in-law said they help Soldiers as well; one of their biggest fears is that

their young children will forget them while they are away. The project also helps the spouses left behind. Once they made quilts for their own children, they continued coming to the weekly quilting session to help others.

"It's an infectious program," said Peggy Mikol, YMCA office manager.

While mothers or other relatives and friends of the child who will get it make most quilts, plenty of requests come in from people who can't come to the workshop. In remembrance of Sept. 11, now known as a National Day of Volunteer Service, the YMCA and Operation Kid Comfort hosted an all-day quilt-a-thon.

"These children are directly related to the war on terror," Mikol said. "Their parents are fighting that war."

Ana Rosado is making daddy quilts for her daughters. She came to her first workshop with Maria Meloro, who met Rosado in the

multi-cultural program Meloro started at Fort Bragg.

"I'm thrilled to be able to do this," Rosado said in Spanish, with Meloro interpreting. "I've been under so much stress, this is an outlet for me. It's a blessing."

Meloro is also making quilts for her three children; her husband, a Marine lieutenant colonel, is deployed for the third time since 9-11. Her quilts will each feature a personal letter her husband wrote to each child.

The Armed Services YMCA is working to spread the quilt love to other military installations across the country. At Georgia Southern University, assistant professor of marketing Kathleen Gruben turned Operation Kid Comfort into class projects for her students. They divided themselves into geographic regions and developed marketing strategies for each installation in those areas.

The end result produced books for each installation, or a region that includes several, that explain where organizers can go to find grant money, local quilter guilds, fabric shops — everything needed to get Operation Kid Comfort started on that installation, Flaherty said.

Along with Operation Kid Comfort, the ASYMCA offers several other programs and services that support Soldiers and their families, said Executive Director Lynne Grates. Baby Bundles, for example, provides a gift bag filled with newborn necessities to Soldiers in pay grade E-4 or below, or the wives of such Soldiers, who have just given birth.

More information about the ASYMCA's programs is available on its web site: www.asymca.org. For more information about Operation Kid Comfort, or to obtain instructions for making a quilt, visit the project's web site at www.asymca.org/operation_kid_comfort.htm.

Flaherty sees Operation Kid Comfort as an outlet for anyone who wants to help Soldiers but doesn't know how.

"There's no better way to support our troops than to take care of their families while they're away," she said.

Don't give in to fear

Chaplain (Maj.) Jay Johns

Leader College of Information Technology

You may remember a popular slogan that found its way on to hats, T-shirts and bumper stickers a few years ago: No Fear.

It became a two-word description of the bold attitude that seems so appealing to those who are intent on getting all they can out of life.

The response was inevitable — emblems bearing the motto "Fear This" followed closely behind.

The second slogan was most commonly found emblazoned on the bumpers of macho-looking trucks. The message was clear: if I can live life fearlessly, and in the process cause fear in you, I have the upper hand in the competitive game of life.

Inordinate fear can have a crippling effect on us. I would argue that fear — not doubt, but fear — is the opposite of faith. When we lack faith, fear moves easily into the vacuum. In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul writes "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

Paul, a bold and

seasoned pastor, wrote these words to his protégée Timothy, who apparently struggled with a timid nature. The spirit that God gives, according to Paul, is one that drives out fear. Through faith, the believer experiences God's power, is enabled to love others without self-regard, and may live a life of disciplined focus.

Life is a joyous challenge. Each day is fraught with opportunity, blessing and difficulty. The difficulties make us vulnerable to giving in to fear.

Financial strain, health concerns and relationship tensions have a way of bringing us to the end of ourselves.

The good news is that this is precisely the place where we find God's strength perfected in our weakness.

Rather than giving in to fear, we can rest in the knowledge that God is in control of the entire universe — and thus my life — and that He "causes all things to work together for the good of those that love Him and are called according to His purposes." (Romans 8:28)

Cast your cares upon God, and find joy in the journey of life. He is our certainty in the midst of uncertain times.

Comedy tour lifts troops' spirits

Spec. Nicole Welch

Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Troops deployed to Iraq were given something to smile about thanks to a recent visit from the Comics on Duty World Tour, sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Though they couldn't quite grasp the concept of "Hooah," comedians Jim Labriola, Drake Witham, Nathan Timmel, Curtis Fortier and Danny Bevins put on a show outside the dining facility at Camp Victory South Aug. 28, which left troops laughing.

While a few servicemembers brought portable chairs to the two-hour show, most simply sat in the rocks, but no one seemed to mind them, or the infamous Iraqi heat. Instead, they drank soda and laughed at the jokes.

Most of the comics' material concentrated on military life, and the troops appreciated it.

"I thought the entire show was funny, especially since they have some knowledge of military life," said Lufkin, Texas, native, Spec. Jamie Laurent, information management officer, Headquarters and Headquar-

ters Company, III Corps, based out of Fort Hood, Texas. "They tell it like it is, and they say what most of us think, but don't say."

The Comics on Duty tour, established in 1992, targeted U.S. installations for the first 10 years, but now encompasses other countries. Now comics on the tour travel the world, recent foreign trips include Japan, Afghanistan, Korea and Kuwait.

The comics' recent weeklong tour of Iraq took them to various parts of the country including Baghdad, Balad and Camp Anaconda Aug. 28 through Sept. 2.

(Welch is a member to the *Multi National Corps — Iraq Public Affairs staff*.)



Photo by Spec. Nicole Welch

Comedian Nathan Timmel performs during the Comics on Duty World Tour at Camp Victory South August 28. The tour traveled to several Iraqi cities during their week-long visit to improve troop morale with their routines.

Chapel Call

Collective Protestant Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. • Liturgical Service, Bicentennial Chapel
9:30 a.m. • Community Contemporary Soldiers Service, Friendship Chapel
10:30 a.m. • Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel

11 a.m. • Gospel Service at Signal Theatre

11 a.m. • Bicentennial Chapel

11 a.m. • Friendship Chapel

Catholic Services

11:45 a.m. Monday thru Friday, Eisenhower Army Med Ctr. Chapel
12:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, Good Shepherd Chapel

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Confessions, Good Shepherd Chapel

5 p.m. Saturday, Vigil Mass, Good Shepherd Chapel

Sunday Masses

8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel

11:45 a.m. Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel

Jewish Activities

Holy Day Services, Announced

Jewish Activities Center, Bldg. 38804

Daily and Sabbath service available off-post for Jewish personnel

For information call 791-3959

Islamic Services

Jumah Prayer Service on Fridays Oct-Apr at 1245-1:30, and Apr-Oct from 1:30-2:30.

These are held in Bldg. 38804, Academic Drive.

For more information, call CPO (Ret.) Marshall Abuwi 772-4303

Denominational Services

LDS Service - Sunday 1:30-3:30 p.m., Barnes Avenue Chapel

Samoan Service, Sunday 1 p.m., Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Religious Education

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, Religious Education Center

Sunday, 11:00 a.m., Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Classes, Religious Education Center (Sept. thru May).

Other Programs/Services

Episcopal Soldier Representative is Kurt Miller at 791-0213

LDS representative is Sergeant 1st Class (retired) Scott Robison, 533-0376. Apostolic Pentecostal's representative is Chaplain Snyder, 791-4683.

Rosh Hashana (Sept. 16-17)

Sept. 15: Evening service & dinner 6:45 (please RSVP for dinner)

Sept. 16: 9:30 a.m. Services • 7:00 p.m. Mincha & Tashlich

Sept. 17: 9:30 a.m. Services

Yom Kippur (Sept. 25)

Sept. 24: 6:45 p.m., Kol Nidrei • Sept. 25: 9:30 a.m. Services,

(fast ends at 7:58 p.m.)

Sukkot (Sept. 30-Oct. 6)

Sept. 29: 7:15 (first night)

Sept. 30: 9:30 a.m. services

Oct. 1: 9:30 a.m. services

Shemini Atzeret-Simchat Torah (Oct. 7-8)

Oct. 7: 7:00 p.m. services

Oct. 8: 9:30 a.m. services

Bible Studies

OCF Bible Study - Monday 6:30 a.m., Officer Christian Fellowship Bible

Study, Friendship Chapel, 791-2056. Friday evening OCF POC is Col.

Hook, 863-8231, or Capt. Craft, 364-5144.

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Bicentennial Chapel

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., Devotional Luncheon, Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Wednesday 11:45 a.m. EAMC Bible Study, DDEAMC Din. Fac. Conf. Rm., 3rd floor

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Signal Theatre, Faith Community Bible Study

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Friendship Chapel Bible Study

Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. 63rd & 67th SIG BN Bible Study, Contact Chaplain

Chapel Directory

Bicentennial Chapel, 791-3959

Good Shepherd Chapel (Catholic), 791-2945

Faith Community Chapel Activities 791-4703 (during duty hours)

Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel, 791-2056

Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel, 787-6667

Religious Education

Protestant/Catholic Program, Mr. Randall Dillard 791-4703

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Army Community Service

FINANCIAL READINESS TRAINING

Sep. 22, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Family Outreach Center (Bldg. 33512)

Mandatory Financial Readiness Class is for **ALL PERMANENT PARTY** soldiers during the first enlistment, but all service members are welcome. Guest speakers include Brian McKinney, Manager, Merchants' Credit Bureau; and Niki Arant, Education Director, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Augusta, Inc. Seating is limited. For more information, call 791-7878 or 791-3579.

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\$21-Active Duty E7 & Below

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DMZ visit stresses U.S.-Korea joint security

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

PANMUNJOM, South Korea – Forty years ago, Bill Kelley was a young Army second lieutenant, stationed in the Republic of Korea just south of the demilitarized zone that divides communist North Korea and democratic South Korea.

Tuesday, as vice chairman of the Jelly Belly Candy Company, Kelley returned for the first time since he served here in a target-acquisition battalion to gaze out over the formidable 155-mile stretch of concertina wire, landmines and tension that has divided the Korean peninsula for more than 50 years.

The visit was part of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference program in which civilian business, civic, academic and local government leaders are traveling throughout the Pacific to see U.S. servicemen at work.

The program, created in 1948 by the first U.S. defense secretary, James V. Forrestal, introduces civilian "movers and shakers" with little or no military exposure to the workings of the armed forces. Nearly six decades later, it remains DoD's premier civic leader program.

For Kelley, today's visit to the joint-security area at Panmunjom brought back memories of living in austere Quonset huts and working in high-threat conditions that required all servicemen to keep their weapons loaded.

And while much has changed in the 40 years since Kelley served here – particularly in terms of quality-of-life improvements for troops stationed here – much has not.

Kelley and the other civilian leaders toured the joint-se-



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Moreen Ishikawa

Civilian business, civic, academic and local government leaders visit the joint-security area in Panmunjom, South Korea, along the demilitarized zone, Tuesday. The civilians are participants in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, traveling to U.S. military sites in the Pacific this week.

curity area, where U.S. and Republic of Korea troops work 24/7 to ensure that the military armistice agreement that brought a halt to the Korean War in 1953 remains in effect.

The group passed through checkpoints, visited a guard post, stepped into a conference building that periodically hosts peace negotiations and looked out over Propaganda Village, a mock village build by the North Koreans to project the image of prosperity in a country where much of the population goes hungry.

Touring the joint-security area, the group also passed the spot where two U.S. Army officers were brutally axed to death by North Korean guards in 1976.

Andy Camacho, chairman and chief executive officer of Camacho Inc., and a participant in the program, said the visit to the DMZ gave him a

new appreciation for the tenuous nature of the armistice agreement and the role U.S. servicemen are playing in maintaining stability in Korea.

"I'm particularly impressed with their commitment," he said.

"It's a very serious, delicate situation here, and thank God they're here. What they're doing is the real stuff – and it's the right stuff," he added.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert R. Dierker, deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Command, said he hopes the visit impressed on the group how little has changed in more than 50 years since the war ended. "In many ways, it's still 1953 here," he said. "I think that is lost on a lot of people until they come here and see it firsthand."

What many people also don't realize until visiting the DMZ, Dierker said, is how diligently the United States

and South Korean militaries are working, 365 days a year, to maintain the fragile peace in Korea. "A visit here helps people appreciate the freedoms we have and the hard work our Soldiers are doing to help maintain our way of life and the same sort of freedoms for the South Koreans," he said.

And even as more South Koreans, particularly the younger generation, look forward to a future in which their country is no longer divided, Air Force Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Kane, deputy chief of staff for United Nations Command/U.S. Forces Korea, said the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea remains as strong as ever.

"This is an alliance born in blood, and we are continuing to protect the security of the Korean Peninsula together," he said.



Photo by Pfc. Armando Monroig

Out with the old, in with the new

Col. John Giddens, incoming 249th General Hospital commander, turns over the guidon for his unit after command was relinquished by Lt. Col. Richard Gullickson, outgoing commander, during a change-of-command ceremony held at Barton Field Monday.

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650 rebuilding projects underway in Iraq

Mitch Frazier
Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The pungent odor of human waste filled the debris-littered halls of the Najaf teaching hospital, a facility ransacked by Moqtada Sadr's Madi Army as they fought throughout the central Iraq city two weeks ago.

The 120-degree heat intensified the smell and offered little reprieve to the teams of Iraqi construction workers wading through rubble intent on returning the hospital to operation.

"The emergency room and the operating room will be operational within the week," said Ricardo Vasquez, a site manager with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as he pointed to a rubble-filled room. "We have to get this place up and running as quick as we can."

The renovation of the war-torn hospital is one of nearly 650 U.S.-led reconstruction projects now underway across the country, and is one of more than 1,800 projects slated for start before year's end.

"These new projects offer hope, and offer huge opportunities for Iraqi people to get a better country, job and feed their families," said "Hess", a 30-year old architectural engineer in North Baghdad. "I think that when they come it will be a very clear message to all Iraqi people and Arab countries that America did what they promised."

At 30, Hess is one of the elders in the country of 2.5 million people. The median age here is 19, a result of decades of fighting and dictatorship, he said.

"It was a huge disaster; therefore, a lot of Iraqi people ran away from this regime, like my sister," he said.

"She ran away out of Iraq risking capture at the border and hanging. It was a huge risk, but she had to. There was no future in Iraq."

"After the war, because the mercy of my God sent the Americans to help us, I got a wonderful salary and hope for a better future," he said.

More than \$7 billion of the \$18.4 billion U.S. reconstruction fund has been obligated to perform the gargantuan task of building hope by rebuilding the nation's infrastructure plagued by decades of poor maintenance.

Electricity generators now pump more electricity into the desert country's power grid than before the war, and more than a thousand schools have been rebuilt.

It's welcomed progress, "Hess" said, but it's often overshadowed by the actions of a minority of Iraq — the weapon-toting militia intent on thwarting progress.

"It's too clear the improvements have been made, but unfortunately what is stopping that improving wheel from going forward is the stupid people outside who just want to attack the American people here," he said. "Unfortunately there are Arab countries in the neighborhood that are feeding the terrorists here with weapons and money to attack the Americans."

Money here was reserved for the elite under the former regime and continues to be a suspected fuel for fighting.

Poverty-stricken families continue to sort through the landfills for food and shelter, but leaders here believe that will change as the reconstruction effort quickens and the demand for labor increases.

"Most of Iraq is very poor outside of Baghdad, and if you pay them good money to attack, they will because they need money to feed their children and families," Hess said.

"They are blind-minded; they don't see how they are hurting their country," added Hess.

"Their only goal is money, not a better Iraq," he said.

More than 110,000 Iraqi laborers and engineers are already on the rolls of reconstruction agencies and contractors.

Thousands more are expected to be added as the additional projects come on line in the months ahead.

Reconstruction efforts have already showed signs of boosting the country's economy, adding more than half a million new jobs, industries and factories, according to the Iraq Ministry of Electricity.

The ministry reports the boost has not only put money

into the hands of many in Iraq, it has fueled the sale of thousands of washing machines and air conditioners, which has rapidly increased the demand for electricity.

"The increase in demand is a good sign of a thriving economy emerging from three decades of isolation," reads a fact sheet published by the ministry.

Like electricity, the demand for water has also increased as more and more Iraqis are able to connect to centralized water distribution systems across the country.

"It is frustrating when you see a water treatment plant being rebuilt, and it provides water every morning when you want it to," "Hess" said. "Then that one guy who is out of his mind comes and cuts the line just like that."

"It's frustrating because we can't move forward when this happens," he said.

"Movement forward for Iraq continues as infrastructure projects around the country begin and Iraqis become employed, which will improve security," said Brig. Gen. Thomas Bostick, the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division, a predominantly civilian organization charged with reconstructing Iraq.

"More projects are starting every day, and more of Iraq will begin to see a difference as these projects come on line," Bostick said.

"Iraqi and multinational firms began 285 new projects during the first week of September and more than a thousand are scheduled to be started in the next 90 days."

(Frazier serves with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division.)



Photo by Mitch Frazier

An Iraqi laborer dumps debris removed from the Najaf teaching hospital Sept. 9. Moqtada Sadr's Madi Army ransacked the hospital, which is now being renovated with U.S. funds.



Photo by Marla Greene

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Loosey is a female lab mix available for adoption at the Fort Gordon Vet Clinic. She's a sweet, medium-sized, dog, about 10-12 months old. Loosey and several other cats and dogs at the clinic are awaiting new homes. You can adopt them Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at 500 N. Range Rd. Cost is \$60 each which includes shots, spay or neuter, and microchip. Call 787-3815 for information on other animals available for adoption.

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Army's best compete in 3rd annual Soldier, NCO competition

Sgt. Reebea Critser
Army News Service

FORT LEE, Va. — Nervous, but confident. That's the general consensus from Soldiers competing in the Army's third Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition at Fort Lee, Va., Sept. 11 to 17.

"This event is so important," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston. "The Soldiers will have an opportunity to show the board how much they know about their service and in doing, set examples of their expertise and professionalism to their peers. The competition is meant to be tough to identify the best of the best. Every Soldier in the competition is a reflection on the Army."

During the week-long competition, Soldiers will compete in the Army Physical Fitness Test, a written exam and essay, day and night navigation, warrior task testing, and a mystery event at Fort Lee. They will then travel to Arlington, Va., for the board, which will be presided over by Preston. The Soldiers with the highest total score will be named the Soldier and NCO of the Year.

"The mix of contestants couldn't be more different — including three women, two immigrants, and one who flew in from Afghanistan — all joining to become 20 of the Army's best Soldiers to compete for the coveted title of Department of the Army Soldier and NCO of the Year. They are:

- Pfc. Karen A. Antonyan, representing the Military District of Washington, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. He is a rescue technician with the MDW Engineer Company at Fort Belvoir, Va., and a native of Donetsk, Ukraine.

- Staff Sgt. Andres Bullock, representing Training and Doctrine Command, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is an instructor with the 5th Ranger Training Battalion at Fort

Benning, Ga., and hails from San Diego, Calif.

- Spc. Joseph R. Camire, representing U.S. Army Special Operations Command, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. He is an aircraft powertrain mechanic with the 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Ga., and is native to Jacksonville, N.C.

- Sgt. Samuel E. Cowell, representing U.S. Armed Forces Korea, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is a signals intelligence team leader with the 532nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Camp Humphreys, Korea, and is from Bellingham, Mass.

- Staff Sgt. Timothy L. Dess, representing Medical Command, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is a medical logistics NCO in charge at Fort Richardson, Alaska, and hails from Fort Benton, Mont.

- Spc. Daniel G. Everly, representing Space and Missile Defense Command, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. He is a joint tactical ground station operator with 1st Space Company, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany, and is native to Carmichaels, Pa.

- Spc. Christopher J. Fisher, representing Army Materiel Command, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. He is a test, measurement and diagnostic equipment maintenance support specialist with the 95th Maintenance Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and is from California City, Calif.

- Spc. Christiana Garcia, representing TRADOC, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. She is a supply sergeant with the 369th Adjutant General Battalion, Fort Jackson, S.C., and is from San Antonio, Texas.

- Sgt. Gurusahai Good, representing MEDCOM, competing in the Soldier of

the Year competition. She is a health care specialist with the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, and is native to Denver.

- Staff Sgt. Brian A. Jakubiak, representing Forces Command, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is a custodian with the 134th Signal Battalion, 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota Army National Guard, and hails from Shakopee, Minn.

- Staff Sgt. Curtis L. Kimbrell, representing SMDC, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is an assistant operations sergeant with the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colo., and is native to Spokane, Wash.

- Sgt. Gabriel A. Martinez, representing U.S. Army Pacific, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. He is a petroleum laboratory technician with the 505th Quartermaster Battalion, Torii Station, Okinawa, Japan, and is from Mesquite, Texas.

- Spc. Wilfredo A. Mendez, representing USAF Korea, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. He is a signals intelligence analyst with the 3rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Camp Humphreys, and hails from Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

- Staff Sgt. Stephen E. Mudge, representing USARPAC, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is a squad leader with the 25th Military Police Company, Schofield Barracks, and is native to Weymouth, Mass.

- Sgt. John R. Parker, representing SOCOM, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is a counter-intelligence analyst with the 3rd Bn., 160th Special Ops. Avn. Regt. (Abn.), Hunter Army Airfield, and is from Owensboro, Ky.

- Sgt. Brandon M. Parrett, representing AMC, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is a shop foreman and a nuclear, biological and chemical NCO



Photo by Sgt. Reebea Critser

Sgt. Christopher J. Fischer shows his skills in handling tough situations in the Warrior Task Testing phase of the Soldier of the Year/Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition Monday at Fort Lee, Va. He was presented with drunk rebels and a drunk Soldier, and had to control and escort them to a detainee area and search them for weapons.

with the 95th Maint. Co., Schofield Barracks, and is a native of Indiana.

- Spc. Megan R. Pitts, representing U.S. Army Europe, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. She is an intelligence analyst with the 14th Transportation Battalion, Vicenza, Italy, and is native of Inola, Okla.

- Staff Sgt. James P. Rehl, representing USAEUR, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is an operating room section sergeant with the 67th Forward Surgical Team, Giebelstadt Army Airfield, Germany, and is from Boise, Idaho

- Spc. Bobby R. Stepro, representing FORSCOM, competing in the Soldier of the Year competition. He is a gunner on an M2A2 Bradley with 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., and hails from Corydon, Ind.

- Staff Sgt. John M. Thompson, representing MDW, competing in the NCO of the Year competition. He is a platoon sergeant with the 80th Area Support Group, Chievres Air Base, Belgium

and is from Port Lavaca, Texas.

The Soldiers say they are ready to face their competitors.

"The competition is great," Kimbrell said. "Everyone here wants to win."

Because of the challenges of a daily mission, the Soldiers said they studied for the event on evenings and weekends.

"Because I have such a demanding job, I studied the last eight months for this competition during my free time," Everly said.

"These Soldiers work hard studying at night and on weekends," Preston said. "That's one of the secrets in our Army. This is one of the programs that set us apart from all other armies. We have incentives that set our Soldiers apart and encourage them to want to self-improve."

Battle of the sexes is not an issue either.

"I feel no different than anyone else because I'm female," Garcia said. "I continue to be harder on myself. I am my own competition."

As for the esprit behind the

competition, the Soldiers said their units were the main cause.

"My motivation is to make my unit proud of me," Garcia said.

Sgt. Elias Odar, Martinez' sponsor, had previously won the Soldier of the Year and the NCO of the Quarter competitions at Okinawa and went to Advance Individual Training with Martinez.

"Martinez is married with two children and his wife's pregnant and due next month," Odar said. "That's his motivation to do his best in this competition."

Sixteen months after going to his first Soldier of the Month board, Martinez found himself in one of the Army's most prestigious competitions. But Odar said he wishes all the contestants well.

"I told my Soldier that 'if someone beats you, they deserve to win,' because he studied every free time he had," Odar said. "I'm behind him 100 percent, but I'm expecting him to win."

"Regardless of who wins, every one of them is a winner," Preston said.

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Community Events

Dental clinic hours

The U.S. Army Dental Activity has reduced staffing from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Oct. 7** for Organization Day activities. Snyder Dental Clinic will remain open for sick call. Patients can either stop by the clinic or call the front desk at 787-7050.

The Dental Activity Headquarters, Tingay Dental Clinic, and hospital dental clinic will close at 9 a.m.

Octoberfest slated

Octoberfest 2004 opens **Sept. 30** at Barton Field with German music and food, carnival rides, a craft show, flea market, a car show, pony rides and more.

The activities run through Oct. 3. Hours are 5-10 p.m. Sept. 30; noon-10 p.m. Oct. 1; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Oct. 2; and noon-7 p.m. Oct. 3.

The carnival opens Sept. 29, from 5-10 p.m.

For more information, call 791-6779 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Oliver Hardy festival

The 16th annual Oliver Hardy Festival begins at 9 a.m. **Oct. 2** in Harlem, Ga.

The day starts with a parade followed by skits, musical entertainment, contests and more.

For information call 556-0401.

Greek festival

The 2004 Greek Festival is **Oct. 1-3** at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 953 Telfair St.

There will be live music, a bazaar, Greek food and more. Admission is free. For information, call 724-1087.

Coin show

The next CSRA coin show is 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Sept. 25** at the H. Odell Weeks Activity Center in Aiken. Admission is free. For information call 644-0761.

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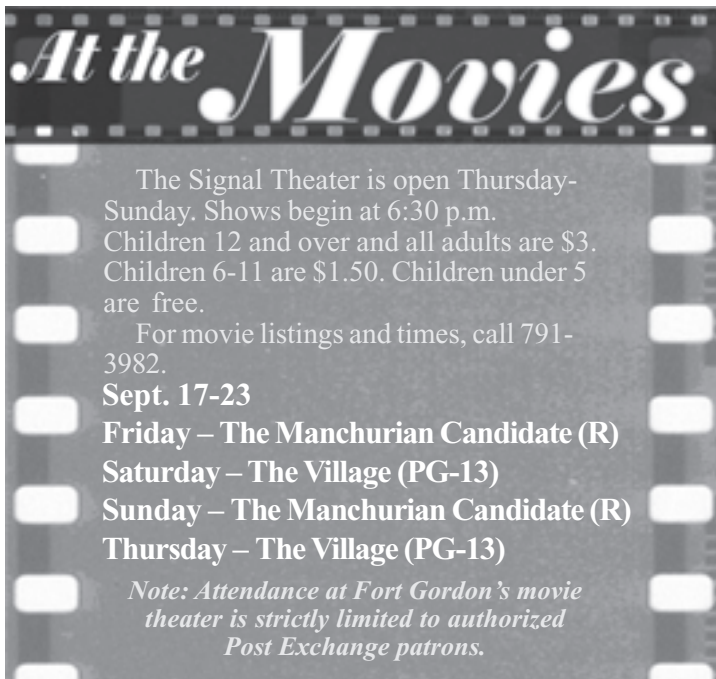
This counseling, which must take place no later than 90 days prior to separation, covers available transition assistance services, rights and benefits.

To schedule an appointment, call 791-7333. Additional information can be found at www.gordon.army.mil/dhr/ACAP/acap.htm.

Spouses class

Army Community Service offers You're in the Army Now!, a new program for military spouses sponsored by Army Family Team Building, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. **Thursday**.

The program allows family members to spend a typical day as a Soldier, eating and training with members of the 93rd Signal Brigade. Free



childcare available for those with confirmed reservations.

To register or for information, call 791-3579 or 791-3880.

Dinner theatre

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents Neil Simon's Barefoot in the Park **today, Saturday, Friday, and Sept. 24, 25 and 30, and Oct. 1 and 2**. Dinner begins at 7 p.m.; the show at 8 p.m.

Tickets cost \$33 for civilians; \$31 for DA civilians, retirees and E-8 and above; \$21 for E-7 and below; \$16 for show only.

For tickets or information, call 793-8552 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Job preparation

Enhance your opportunities of employment and attend the Job Fair Preparation Workshop from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Tuesday** and

a POW of the Communist Chinese during the Korean War. He was held in captivity for more than 1,000 days.

For information call William Mannel at 854-0895.

Babysitting class

Child and Youth Services and the American Red Cross are holding a babysitting class from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Oct. 30** at the Main Child Development Center.

Cost is \$25. Make checks payable to the American Red Cross Augusta Chapter. For information, contact Pamela Rachal at 791-1305.

Signal course

The Signal Regiment Graduate Education Program is offering its next resident graduate seminar **Sept. 18 to Dec. 11**. The seminar meets on Saturdays, with holiday weekends off.

ITSM 602 is a two course, six-credit graduate seminar offered through a partnership with the University of Maryland University College. The two graduate courses offered in ITSM 602 are Systems Engineering and Information Risk Assurance.

This program is open to all officers, warrant officers or enlisted members of all services on Fort Gordon, as well as their family members. Soldiers here to attend military schooling, DA civilians, and contractors may also participate. Tuition assistance is available for military members.

For information, go to <http://www.gordon.army.mil/OCOS/edu>. For questions or to register for the program, contact Maj. Alan Makowsky at alan.makowsky@us.army.mil.

Life insurance elections

The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program is conducting an Open Season through **Sept. 30**.

The effective date of coverage is delayed until the first day of the first pay period that begins on or after Sept. 1, 2005.

Election of coverage must be completed through the Army Benefits Center; no paper election will be accepted. For information, call Karen Ellis at 791-4179.

The School Yard

Early release

Richmond County Elementary schools will release students at 1 p.m. **Sept. 28** and **29**.

PTA meeting

Freedom Park Elementary School will hold its first PTA meeting of the school year at 6 p.m. **Monday**. For information call 796-8428.

CYS meeting

A Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. **Oct. 20** at the Youth Services Building.

For information, go to www.gordon.army.mil/liasvc



Photo by Pfc. Armando Monroig

Get your motor running

Tom Lynes, retired Airman and member of Post 166 in South Carolina, sits on his bike at the American Legion Post 178 in Augusta Saturday. The special meeting, held on Patriot's Day, was to announce The American Legion Riders founding its first Motorcycle Chapter in Georgia. Festivities kicked off at noon and included free food, door prizes and a dunk tank. There were 50 charter members at the event.

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Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Adventure race

The Savannah River/ Augusta Canal Adventure Race will be held at 8 a.m. **Oct. 2** at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion.

Racers will explore the banks of the Savannah River and Augusta Canal on foot, bike and canoe, all while overcoming strategic obstacles and orienteering challenges.

Online registration is available at **www.active.com**. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Augusta VA Hospital. For information call (803)258-1370.

College basketball tip-off luncheon

The Greater Augusta Sports Council "tips-off" the college basketball season with a luncheon at noon **Oct. 11** at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel.

The program features keynote speaker Jim Calhoun, head coach at the University of Connecticut, the 2004 National Champions. More than a dozen college basketball coaches from Georgia and South Carolina are also expected to attend.

Tickets are \$25 for GASC members, \$35 for non-members. Call 722-8326 for information.

Aerobathon

Fort Gordon's Physical Fitness center Gym 4 is holding an aerobathon from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **Saturday**.

Sponsored by the Sports & Fitness department, the five hour event will include HI/LO impact aerobic, step aerobic, kickboxing and an abdominal workout. The cost is \$2 per person.

Pre-register from 5:30-9 a.m. or 11 a.m.-1 p.m. **today** at Gym 3. For information call Lula Ray at 791-2864.

Free golf lessons

Gordon Lakes Golf Course offers free 10-minute golf lessons the third **Wednesday** of each month through October.

For information, call 791-2433 or stop by the Pro Shop to sign up.

Outdoor recreation

The Army's Clark Hill Recreation Area offers camping, water skiing, fishing, hiking, biking and more. Located just 25 miles from Fort Gordon, the area is open to all ID card holders.

For information, call 541-1057.

Golf tournament

The 93rd Signal Brigade is hosting a golf tournament **Oct. 1** at the Gordon Lakes Golf Course. Cost is \$40 for each participant.

All proceeds will be donated to the Fort Gordon Christmas House. All proceeds need to be submitted through the battalion representatives by **Thursday**. For information, call Ashley Goodrum at 791-9322.

Fishing Tournament

The Sportsman's Club is holding their Kid's Fishing Tournament on National Fishing Day, **Sept. 25**. The event is open to the public for children ages 3-15. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the event runs until noon. For information, call 791-5078.

Pfc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

The atmosphere was festive as 25 Soldiers from one of Fort Gordon's Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course volunteered to help at the 11th annual Border Bash at the Augusta Commons Friday.

The bash, a big pep rally before the University of Georgia and South Carolina football game Saturday, was not only a chance to display team spirit, but also to raise money for the Children's Medical Center at the Medical College of Georgia.

The BNCOC Soldiers manned gate two – collecting money for admission and distributing wristbands.

Sgt. 1st Class William Craig, Regimental Noncommissioned Officer's academy, said BNCOC Soldiers are asked to volunteer for certain community events. It is up to the Soldiers to decide what events they want to volunteer for.

This group of Soldiers volunteered for the Bash, giving them the opportunity to help out in an event with a worthy cause and have some fun too.

A big part of the fun was the two universities' rivalry but the event was also held for a very important reason – to raise money for a good cause.

Henriette Malzer, CMC's administrative coordinator, said the event helped raise \$47,000 for CMC, and thanked the Fort Gordon volunteers for their help. "They are absolutely outstanding," she said. "They know exactly what they are supposed to do, arrive earlier than they have to and do extra work."

Thirteen Soldiers worked the gate for the first shift and were relieved by another group of 12 Soldiers. The event lasted until midnight.

Craig said event organizers like having Fort Gordon Soldiers to help out at the



Photos by Pfc. Armando Monroig

Staff Sgt. Lloyd Granville, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course student, places a wristband on Caitlin Conley of North Augusta, who attended Border Bash with her friend (to her left), Taylor Stacy and father, Jim Conley.

event, and continue to ask them to do so because they are very organized and help things run smoothly.

"I appreciate the Fort Gordon volunteers very, very much," said Malzer. "They are always willing to do what I ask, and do an outstanding job."

She added that they are happy to get assistance from the Soldiers.

"They are very organized and prepare well for the event," said Malzer. "They are very valuable and we get valuable input from them also."

"I thought it was a great event," said Craig. "It was entertaining for everyone – for individuals and it was a family-type atmosphere."

He said things ran smoothly and the event was

well coordinated and handled professionally.

"It was pretty cool. The cheerleaders came over and hung out with us – they didn't have to do that. They were nice about it," said Craig.

"It was motivating for the Soldiers. We helped the MCG children's hospital. I'll definitely do it again next year," he added.

The game on Saturday was a close one, but the University of Georgia Bulldogs defeated the University of South Carolina Gamecocks 20-16 in Columbia, S.C.

But fans by the hundreds gathered at the Augusta Commons Friday and showed their school spirit by chanting their school's name and wearing their school's colors – confident their team was

going to win.

The majority of the crowd was dressed in red, black and white, representing the Bulldogs, but sprinkles of garnet could be seen throughout the crowd.

The entrance fee was \$8 with gates opening at 5 p.m.

Bulldog and Gamecock fans trickled in little by little, and within a couple of hours, all of Augusta Commons was buzzing with college football anticipation.

Kids tossed footballs around with their friends and played tag football – Bulldog and Gamecock fans gave each other good-natured ribbing – all in the name of good sportsmanship.

One Georgia fan came with his very-own real-life Bulldog mascot dressed in a sweater with his team's logo on it.

Parents came with their kids – little girls dressed in cheerleading outfits and little boys wearing football jerseys with their favorite football player's name on it.

In addition to hanging out with their family, friends and rivals, fans were treated to the tunes of the rock band, the Swingin' Medallions.

Cheerleaders from both schools got the crowd riled up as they performed on stage, while their respective mascots, UGA's Hairy Dawg and USC's Cocky, the National Mascot of the Year, joined them in gearing fans up for the big game on Saturday.

After their first performance on stage they mingled with the crowd, talking to fans and collecting money for MCG.



(Above) University of Georgia cheerleaders collect money from fans for the Children's Medical Center at the Medical College of Georgia. **(Below)** University of South Carolina cheerleaders and mascot take the stage and get the crowd motivated.



Fans gather to watch the cheerleaders perform.



People gather around Patrick's Ugadooley, a bulldog who was showed off by owner Patrick Cail of Appling, Ga.

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The Augusta Veterans Affairs Medical Center is seeking full-time internal medicine, and/or family practice physicians. Qualification requirements: BC/BE in internal medicine and/or family practice; must qualify for academic appointment at the Medical College of Georgia. Clinical responsibilities include serving as an attending physician and providing care and treatment to patients in primary care clinics on the inpatient medicine service. Flexible tours available. Institutional support for research and funding mechanisms exist. Send curriculum vitae to: Alma Johnson, (05), 950 15th Street, Augusta, GA 30904-6285 or via email to Alma.Johnson@med.va.gov. Phone: 706-733-0188, extension 2096. Deadline for receipt of applications is December 31, 2004.

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‘Rat Patrol’ secures Afghan mission

Sgt. Frank Magni
Special to American Forces Press Service

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Their name is inspired by a '60s television show, and their concept by the movie "The Dirty Dozen," but there is nothing staged about what this band of cooks, medics, mechanics, and supply and communication specialists are doing at Kandahar Airfield.

"We have basically taken Soldiers from different (military occupational specialties) and military backgrounds, put them together and begun conducting (security) missions with them," said Capt. Robert Horn, the unit's commander.

Although their non-traditional mission began when the unit hit Afghanistan, their training started when the unit's leaders realized some of the support services were already taken care of in Afghanistan, said Horn.

"We knew that food service

was contracted to civilians in Afghanistan, so we were looking for an alternate mission for our cooks," he said. "But we found we had other Soldiers interested in doing something different."

Not really knowing what the ultimate role of the Rat Patrol would be, the unit began conducting training in Hawaii that would prepare them for a wide variety of missions.

The training began with weapons familiarization and broader use. Rat Patrol Soldiers learned how to proficiently operate the M-2 .50 caliber and M-240B machine guns, as well as the M-249 squad automatic weapon, said Horn.

They then conducted convoy live-fire exercises, in addition to day, night and grenade ranges. The group also trained on advanced land navigation and scout observation tactics.

Finally, they tested their skills in combat simulators and performed a security role in training exercises leading

up to the deployment.

"Not a lot of headquarters units get the chance to do the extensive training necessary for this type of role," said Horn. "But our chain of command was supportive and the troops were really motivated to make it happen."

The Rat Patrol's first missions were convoy escorts and pulling security for forward arming and refueling points. They were also responsible for escorting engineer convoys to Forward Operating Base Tiger, where they provided perimeter security.

"They never ceased to amaze me," said Horn. "They have shown nothing but flare, professionalism and experience above what was initially expected of them."

He said one of the main factors that contributed to the success of the Rat Patrol was the unit's leadership and ability to bring their diverse backgrounds together.

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Danley, the Rat Patrol platoon

sergeant, is a 12-year veteran of the infantry. He said he never doubted any of the Soldiers' ability to perform in a combat role, but the training they performed was just an extension of what they already knew. "It just goes to show that practicing the basic combat skills pays off," said Danley.

He said the patrol has even showed him strengths he didn't expect. "It is kind of convenient that each one of our guys has skills that come in handy," he said. "If we have a (vehicle) break down, a mechanic is right there."

Even with the new mis-

sion, they continue to support the rest of the squadron in their traditional roles, said Horn. For example, the motor pool here has more of a workload than when they're at home station. "They not only maintain the equipment we initially brought over here, but the fleet of up-armored Humvees the unit added in Afghanistan," Danley said.

In the future, the patrol will also have the additional responsibility of escorting medical missions coordinated and sponsored by the squadron. "The demand for them (the patrol) is non-stop," said Horn. "But they rise to every

challenge put in front of them."

"I'm just proud that I can do my part over here," said Spc. Hansel Davis, a cook and Rat Patrol member. "This is just my shot to do something more."

Whether his unit is just a unique combination of Soldiers and circumstances or every headquarters unit in the Army has a Rat Patrol of their own, Horn said he has always known that every Soldier is a rifleman, and his unit proves it every day.

(Magni is a member of the 17th Public Affairs Detachment.)



Photo by Sgt. Frank Magni

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Danley, the "Rat Patrol" platoon sergeant, communicates with a local man while clearing traffic for a convoy he is escorting.

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Spectrum



(Above) A contestant rides her horse around a barrel during the girl's barrel racing competition. (Below) Liza Sullivan carries the American flag on Patriots Day during the opening of the rodeo.



Photos by Pfc. Armando Monroig
A saddle bronc rider hangs on as best he can during competition Saturday at the Professional Cowboy Association Rodeo, held Friday and Saturday on Barton Field. Bull riding was also among the featured events.



(Left) Pfc. Mark Kinney, Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, takes a shot at riding a mechanical bull during intermission of the rodeo Saturday.
(Above) One of the show's participants rides on two horses while standing on their backs, during the trick riding portion of the show.
(Right) Rodeo clowns were a big part of the show as they interacted with the crowd and gathered many laughs.



Mount up: Rodeo show shines at Fort Gordon

Pfc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

Fort Gordon went country at the first ever Professional Cowboy Association Rodeo Show, held on post Friday and Saturday at Barton Field. Gates opened at 6:30 p.m. with the show running from 8-10:30 p.m.

About 2,000 people attended the event that featured eight events: bareback riding, calf roping, girl's break-away roping, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team-roping, girl's barrel racing, and bull riding.

Specialty acts such as trick riding, Roman riding, a whip act, kid's calf scramble and a boot race were part of the show as well.

About 275 entries from Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida, just to name a few, entered the rodeo.

The event also featured carnival rides such as bungee jumping, a mechanical bull ride and other rides for children. Hilltop Riding Stables had pony rides available for children as well.

"A lot of fast, fun entertainment," is how Ed

Doolittle, stock contractor and owner of Cross Creek Rodeo Company, describes his rodeo show.

He said there was an excellent turn-out for a first-year rodeo.

The rodeo required plenty of advance planning.

Sid McKissick, a bull fighter of 18 years, is one of those who helps put this show on.

His job is to protect a bull rider by distracting the bull from the rider once he gets off or is thrown off the bull.

Bull fighters are also known as grease-paint matadors, bull clowns or rodeo clowns.

At one point in Friday night's show, McKissick got caught and was tossed about eight feet in the air by an 1,800 pound bull.

"I love kids and it's a great sport," McKissick said about why he chose his profession, adding that he has wanted to be a cowboy since he was a child. "And entertainment is what it's all about."

Besides enjoyment for what they do, some of the participants do it as a family tradition, as was the case with Travis Moody, a bull, saddle-bronc and bareback

rider, and 13-year rodeo veteran whose father participated in rodeos.

Moody described what some of the events of the show entailed.

He said a rider sits on the bull or horse in a shoot - a small pen that contains the animal until the gates are opened.

After that, the action takes place and the rider tries to hang on for dear life.

In bull riding, the rider uses a rope, glove and spurs, and needs to hang on with one hand for at least eight seconds without getting thrown off, said Moody.

Whoever hangs on the longest gets the best score and usually wins.

In bareback riding, the cowboys ride without a saddle using a rigging, which is a piece of leather with a handle on it. They also use spurs and chaps, he said. The goal of this event is also to stay on for at least eight seconds.

In bronc riding, riders use a saddle, spurs and chaps and have the same objective. Some people wear a protective vest, added Moody.

The average age of the bulls used for the rodeo is 5-years-old, said Moody,

adding that they use all kinds of horses - mustangs to thoroughbreds - for the show.

Another event in the rodeo was the girl's barrel racing that consists of riding a horse around three barrels in a cloverleaf pattern as fast as possible, said 16-year-old Liza Sullivan, the American flag carrier during the show. The person with the fastest time wins.

Calf roping, another one of the rodeo show events, is when a young calf is given a head start and then the rider and his horse chase it down. The objective is to catch the calf and tie three of its legs together as fast as possible.

Calf roper Will Charing said a calf can weigh anywhere from 200-300 pounds.

The calf scramble was an event that involved children from the audience running after a calf to retrieve two ribbons from its tail. The first two children to get the ribbons won.

The boot race involved adult members of the audience removing their footwear and walking to the opposite end of the arena while staff members separated their shoes and

tossed them in different directions.

Participants then needed to run back to where their footwear lay, find their shoes, put them on, and run back to the other end of the arena. The first one to do so was declared the winner.

Tina Pondy, chief of business operations division for the Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation, said the show was great entertainment for a great price.

"You couldn't ask for a better performance," she said of the show that attracted top professional riders in the area. "I thought they put on an extremely good event."

"It builds partnership with the local community," Pondy said of the event. "It allows members of the community to come out here and participate with Soldiers in these types of events."

It helps supplement the level of entertainment offered at Fort Gordon, said Pondy.

"It's great to have something for the Soldiers - good, clean, fun entertainment. There are more military families today than ever

before," she said.

Pondy added it is DMWR's goal to have more family-oriented entertainment events.

"Not bad for our first rodeo," said Pondy. A total of six gift bags worth \$200 were given out that included prizes from Huddle House, Augusta Coca Cola, Vision Graphics who made rodeo T-shirts, DMWR coupons, Gordon Golf Club coupons and performing arts tickets to the Fort Gordon Dinner theater.

"We added \$1,000 to each of the eight events," said Pondy, adding that some of the better talent was drawn to the event because of that. "It will help us for next year's event."

She said the facilities were set up to accommodate the rodeo show participants.

She said special power and water was made available for the horse trailers.

In addition DMWR gave away \$600 in the calf and boot scramble events held each day.

A \$100 gift certificate to Wal-Mart was given out to the winners of the kid's calf scramble and \$100 cash for the boot scramble.